(a) whether subsequent to the last Budget Session they have done anything regarding the representation made in the Council regarding the housing of the Talapalli Magistrate's Court in a better and more ventilated building than the one where the same is held now;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, where the matter stands now?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.— (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Has the Government come to any decision regarding the desirability of shifting the present building?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The proposal was to construct an additional building for the purpose. Government have sanctioned it, but have postponed it for want of funds. According to the availability of funds this work will be taken up.

State Museum—supply of beef—rates regarding.

130. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) the rates at which beef was supplied in the State Museum in the years 1109 and 1110;

(2) the rate at which beef is being supplied in 1111;

(3) who was the officer who called for the tenders in the above mentioned years?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—(1) 0—0—4¾ per lb. in 1109.
0—0—4¼ per lb. in 1110

(2) 0—1—6 per lb.

(3) Honorary Superintendent.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—What is the quantity of beef that is necessary for the Zoo?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—55,270 pounds.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—May I know the rate at which the tender was accepted for 1112?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—3½ pies.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—Has not the Honorary Superintendent reported that the rate for 1111 is 1 anna 6 pies?

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Mr. M. P. Cherian.—That was the lowest tender. There were only two tenderers, one for 1½ annas and the other for 2 as. We accepted the lower tender.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—Did the Government notice the disparity between the rates of 1109, 1110 and 1111?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Yes.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—Did the Government think that there is nothing behind the tenders that have been applied for?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—We had no occasion to suspect anything.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—Seeing that there was much disparity did they not suspect anything behind it?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Tenders were openly called for. There were only two. The lower was accepted.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—Is there any practice by which if there is any combination between the tenderers, the Government refuse to accept the tenders?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Government were not aware of any combination.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—Suppose the Government was aware of any combination. Will the Government refuse?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—We do not know. It is a hypothetical question.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—Who invited the tenders for 1112?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—The Secretariat.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—From the figures for 1109 and 1110 did the Government actually consider the desirability of inviting tenders at that time directly from the Secretariat?

Mr. President.—So far as 1111 was concerned, as the Joint Secretary explained, it was the lowest tender and Government accepted it under the impression that the price of beef has gone up. But since then a number of complaints have been received and with a view to avoid all these complaints and the undesirability of entrusting such work to an honorary officer, for 1112 the Secretary to Government himself have called for tenders for the Zoo.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—Who was the Contractor for 1111?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Ignitius.

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Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—What are his initials?

Mr. M. P. Cherian—N. I. Ignitius.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—Is it Nadakkavukaran?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—We do not know.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Before accepting tenders did the Government enquire the price of beef?

Mr. President.—Government had no reason to suspect any foul play. The Honorary Superintendent recommended the acceptance of the lowest tender and Government accepted it.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—What will be the total disparity between the rates of 1110 and 1111?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Below Rs. 4,000.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder.—Is the quality the same?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—We expect the same quality.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder.—No wonder the beasts are under-fed.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Was not the rates excessive?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—It was not excessive when compared with the market value of beef.

Mr. President.—We had absolutely no reason to think that there was any foul play. Tenders were called for and the lowest tender was accepted. It has now been ordered that tenders for the supply of articles to the Museum should be addressed to the Secretary to Government and it will be opened by the office.

Extension of the term of the present Municipal Councils.

131. **Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether they are contemplating to extend the life of the present Municipal Councils in the State;

(2) if so, the reasons for the same?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—(1) The life of the present Municipal Councils has been extended till 1—4—1113 by a Proclamation by His Highness the Maharaja dated 25—7—1936.

(2) The reasons are stated in the Proclamation referred to in (1).

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